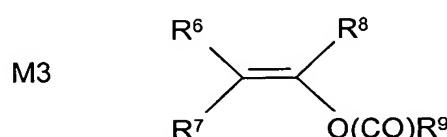
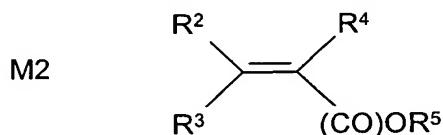


What is claimed is:

1. The use of a polymer which contains, in copolymerized form, an α -olefin, a vinyl ester and an ester of an α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid as an additive for fuel oils and lubricants.
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2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the polymer contains the vinyl ester and the ester of an α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymerized in random distribution.
- 10
3. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the polymer is composed of monomers including M1, M2 and M3 and wherein M1, M2 and M3 have the following general formulae:



where

25 R¹ is H or C₁-C₄₀-hydrocarbyl;
 R², R³ and R⁴ are each independently H or C₁-C₄-alkyl;
 R⁵ is C₁-C₂₀-hydrocarbyl;
 R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently H or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and
 R⁹ is C₁-C₂₀-hydrocarbyl.

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4. The use according to claim 3, wherein the monomers M1, M2 and M3 are present in the polymer in the following molar proportions:
 M1: from 0.60 to 0.98
 M2: from 0.01 to 0.20
 35 M3: from 0.01 to 0.20.
5. The use according to either of claims 3 and 4, wherein monomer M1 is ethylene.
- 40 6. The use according to any of claims 3 to 5, wherein R², R³ and R⁴ are each H or two of the R², R³ and R⁴ radicals are each H and the other radical is methyl.

7. The use according to any of claims 3 to 6, wherein R⁵ is C₁-C₉-hydrocarbyl.
8. The use according to claim 7, wherein R⁵ is n-butyl or 2-ethylhexyl.
- 5 9. The use according to any of claims 6 to 8, wherein M2 is n-butyl acrylate or 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.
10. The use according to any of claims 3 to 9, wherein M3 is vinyl acetate.
- 10 11. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the polymer is used as a cold flow improver.
- 15 12. A fuel oil composition comprising a major proportion by weight of a middle distillate fuel boiling in the range of 120-500°C and a small proportion by weight of at least one polymer as defined in any of claims 1 to 11.
13. The fuel oil composition according to claim 12, wherein the fuel component comprises biodiesel (from animal or vegetable production) in proportions of 0-100% by weight.
- 20 14. The fuel oil composition according to claim 12, selected from diesel fuels, kerosene and heating oil.
15. The fuel oil composition according to claim 14, wherein the diesel fuel is obtainable by refining, coal gasification or gas liquefaction, or is a mixture of such products and is optionally mixed with renewable fuels.
16. The fuel oil composition according to any of claims 12 to 15, wherein the sulfur content of the mixture is at most 500 ppm.
- 30 17. A lubricant composition comprising a major proportion by weight of a conventional lubricant and a minor proportion by weight of at least one polymer as defined in any of claims 1 to 10.
- 35 18. The use or composition according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the polymer is used in combination with further conventional cold flow improvers and/or further lubricant and fuel oil additives.
- 40 19. An additive package comprising at least one polymer as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 in combination with at least one further conventional lubricant or fuel oil additive.